

COMMENTS RECEIVED AND NPS RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

I. Introduction

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Park Service (NPS) policy on compliance with NEPA, all substantive comments received during the 60-day public comment period for the Point Reyes National Seashore Fire Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), were considered and responded during the preparation of this Final EIS. Substantive comments are generally defined as those that raise, debate or question, within a reasonable basis, the accuracy of the information presented or adequacy of the range of alternatives or assessment conducted. Other comments received, such as those that focus on agency policy, express a preference for an alternative or address issues beyond the scope of fire management planning at Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) are noted without specific response.

A notice of availability for the Draft EIS was published in the federal register and the document made available for public review on February 20, 2004. The 60-day public comment period ended on April 20, 2004. A public workshop to provide information to the public on the Draft EIS was held at the Red Barn meeting room at PRNS on the evening of March 18, 2004. No verbatim recording of the discussion at the meeting was made in order to allow an informal question and answer format, which is difficult to transcribe. NPS staff gave a presentation on fire management planning actions at PRNS and more specifically on the proposed alternatives presented in the Draft EIS. The presentation was followed by an open question and answer period with the public. The public was encouraged to submit comments on the FMP Draft EIS to NPS offices at PRNS by email, fax or regular mail.

The FEIS will be mailed to the same distribution list as the DEIS. Both the DEIS and this FEIS will be available on the PRNS website at: www.nps.gov/pore/pphtml/documents.html.

This section of the Final EIS is structured as follows:

- I. Introduction
- II. Comment Letters. *Seven comment letters on the Draft EIS were received. Each letter is numbered, as is each specific comment within the letter. The markup on the letters in this chapter should be used as an index to find the appropriate response to that comment in Chapter III.*
- III. Comments Received and Response to Comments. *Responses are presented for substantive comments. Solely to facilitate the matching of comments and responses between the two chapters, each specific comment is presented in a brief paraphrase. The full comment can be referenced in Chapter II. Any changes needed to Draft EIS text based on the specific comment are noted in the response with underline marking new text and strikeout noting deleted text.*